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A R S
SCIENCE
HALL
OF
FAME

June 11, 1991

Agriculture Research Service
United States Department of Agriculture

1986

Edward F. Knipling

1987

Howard L. Bachrach

Myron K. Brakke

Glenn W. Burton

Wilson A. Reeves

Ernest R. Sears

Orville A. Vogel

Cecil H. Wadleigh

1988

Francis E. Clark

Edgar E. Hartwig

Ralph Edward Hodgson

Hamish N. Munro

Jose Vicente-Chandler

1989

Douglas R. Dewey

Theodor O. Diener

Karl Norris

John F. Sullivan

1990

Theodore C. Byerly

Gordon Edwin Dickerson

Robert W. Holley

Virgil A. Johnson

George F. Sprague

The Agricultural Research Service Science Hall of Fame

The ARS Science Hall of Fame was inaugurated in 1986. We determined that each succeeding year, one or more present or former scientists with the Agricultural Research Service could be selected, subject to the following criteria:

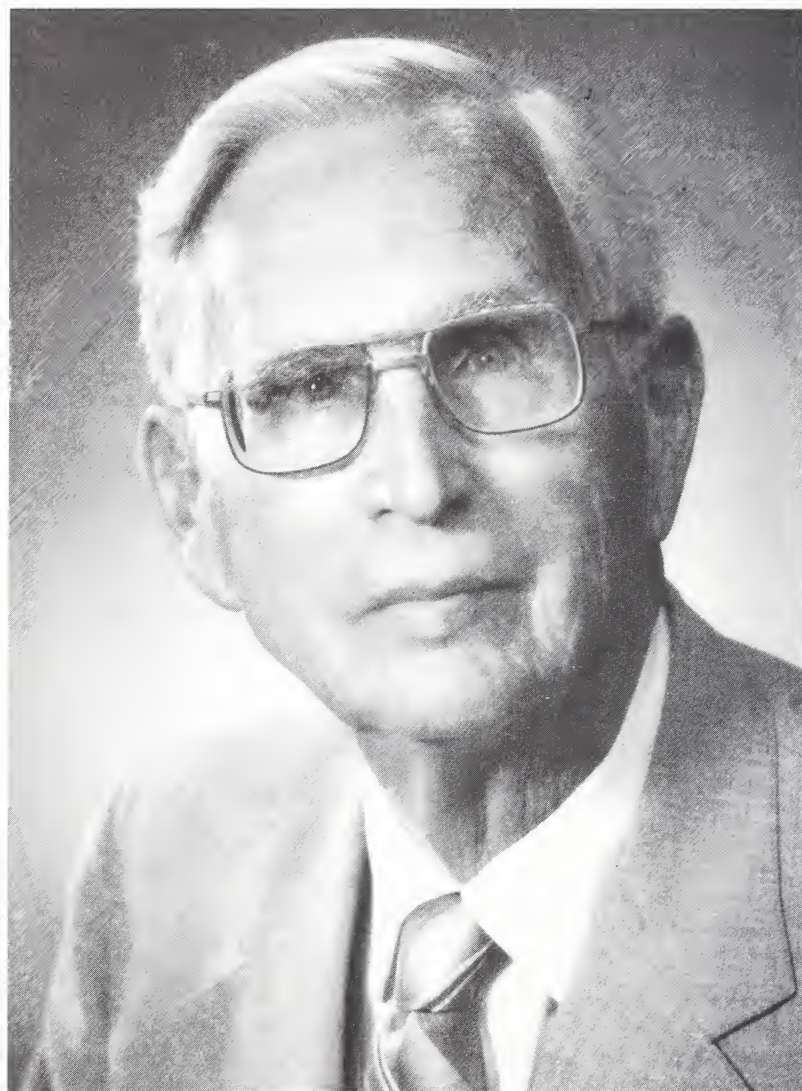
- The selectee's research must have contributed significantly to the solution of a major agricultural problem and reflect credit on the Agricultural Research Service.
- The selectee is recognized nationally and internationally by his or her peers in the scientific community.
- The selectee's character and record of achievement is worthy of emulation by younger agricultural scientists.
- The selectee must be either retired or eligible to retire and must continue to be professionally active.

Today we honor several outstanding scientists by inducting them into the Science Hall of Fame. A plaque citing the achievements of each will be on permanent display in the ARS National Visitor Center at the Beltsville Agricultural Research Center.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Dean Plowman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of the first and last names being capitalized and prominent.

R. Dean Plowman
Administrator

June 11, 1991



John H. Weinberger

Research Horticulturist (retired)

Horticultural Crops Research Laboratory

Fresno, California

For outstanding lifelong contributions in development of fruit varieties and fruit breeding technology.

John H. Weinberger developed and released 37 fruit varieties (22 peach, 6 nectarine, 3 plum, 1 *Prunus* rootstock, 1 apricot, 1 table grape, 1 raisin grape, and 2 grape rootstocks) during his 41 years with ARS and its predecessors. Before his retirement from ARS in 1973, he also made the original crosses and selection of several other important varieties that have since been released.

Flame Seedless, the table grape variety he released in 1973, is now the second most important seedless grape produced in the United States. Since its 1973 introduction, 23,765 acres have been planted in California alone. Another of his developments—Friar Plum—is the major Japanese-type plum grown in California. It is the first plum to surpass production of Luther Burbank's Santa Rosa plum.

The peach and nectarine varieties developed by Dr. Weinberger are extensively grown not only in California, but around the world. Nemaguard rootstock, which is resistant to nematodes, is now the major peach rootstock used in the southern San Joaquin Valley, the main peach-producing region in California. Nemaguard is also a major rootstock for plums, nectarines, apricots, and almonds.

In the course of breeding new fruit varieties, Dr. Weinberger also developed better techniques—such as a rapid propagation method for growing grafted grapevines. The grape industry has adopted this improved method and now grafts most of the plants in the greenhouse instead of the field.

Dr. Weinberger is a Fellow of the American Society for Horticultural Science and a recipient of the Wilder Award from the American Pomological Society. He received the USDA Superior Service Award in 1964 and its Distinguished Service Award in 1973. Though retired from ARS, he remains active as a consultant and breeder for a commercial firm in Fresno.



1991

Walter H. Wischmeier

National Research Investigations Leader (retired)

Soil and Water Conservation Research Division

West Lafayette, Indiana

For developing the Universal Soil Loss Equation, which has been widely used for three decades worldwide in conservation and management of our natural resources.

Walter H. Wischmeier developed the Universal Soil Loss Equation, first published in 1958 (USDA Agriculture Handbook 282). Over the next 20 years, he refined and improved the USLE and published the results of his efforts in 1978 in Agriculture Handbook 537, which is still a standard reference. The USLE is widely used for land management planning worldwide and is regarded—according to the International Soil and Water Conservation Society—as “the primary tool of conservationists for planning purposes.”

The USLE, a pioneering use of computers for agricultural problems, resulted from analyses of more than 11,000 plot-years of research data from 47 locations in 24 States. The equation provides techniques for numerically evaluating effects of climate, soil properties, topography, crop-productivity level, time and method of seeding, crop sequence, residue management, special conservation practices, and other pertinent variables that affect soil erosion. It is a required element in farm and ranch plans used to qualify for USDA assistance programs; it is an invaluable tool for natural resource inventories carried out in the United States; it has been the basis of economic analyses related to agriculture; and it has been an important element in analyses dealing with assessment and control of surface water quality. His achievements in the reduction of soil loss caused by erosion were instrumental in establishment of the ARS National Soil Erosion Laboratory (NSEL) in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Mr. Wischmeier is a Fellow of the Soil Conservation Society of America and the Soil Science Society of America. He was a recipient of the prestigious Hugh Hammond Bennett Award of the Soil and Water Conservation Society and twice received the USDA Superior Service Award. After a 35-year USDA career, Mr. Wischmeier retired in 1975, but he has been active in various professional societies and has continued interactions with Purdue University and the NSEL.

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